

(12) AUSTRALIAN PETTY PATENT ABRIDGMENT

(19) AU

(11) AU-B-74936/87

(54) POKER MACHINE

(71) AINSWORTH NOMINEES PTY. LTD.

(21) 74936/87 564351 (22) 29.6.87
(24) 29.6.87

(45) 1.9.87

(51)⁴ G07F 17/34

(72) PHILIP CLIVE CROUCH

(74) RI

(57) Claim 1. A poker machine of the kind consisting of plurality of reels arranged side by side each reel having on its circumference a plurality of symbols having one symbol at each of a plurality of positions around the circumference of the reel, a viewing window through which one or more lines of symbols, one symbol on each line being from each reel, are visible, means to rotate and stop the reels in a random manner, microprocessor means controlling the last mentioned means said microprocessor means being programmed to operate payout means to pay a predetermined prize from the machine on the appearance of a predetermined combination of symbols in said window characterised in that on one or more of the reels of the machine at one or more positions two of the said symbols are depicted side by side in the same position on the circumference of the reel or reels.

The present invention relates to poker machines of the kind consisting of a plurality of reels arranged side by side each reel having on its circumference a plurality of symbols, one or more lines of which are visible through a viewing window. The reels are rotated, for example by means of stepper motors and are brought to a halt in a random manner to display a number of symbols one from each reel in a line or lines in the viewing window. If any one of a plurality of combinations of symbols indicated usually on the face of the machine appear in a line in the viewing window the machine delivers a prize to the player the amount of the prize depending on the combination appearing in the window. In the past such poker machines have been operated in a purely mechanical manner the reels being stopped at random by mechanical means. More recently the stopping of the reels is controlled by means of a microprocessor directly or in association with a random number generator the microprocessor being programmed also to control the payout mechanism.

In an attempt to make the playing of poker machines more attractive to players numerous attempts have been made to introduce variations into the types of combination of symbols that give rise to the payment of a prize.

The object of the present invention is to introduce a variation in which at selected positions on one or more of the reels of the machine two of the symbols appearing elsewhere on the reels are depicted side by side in the same position on the reel. This apparently trivial alteration in the arrangement of the symbols however enables a variety of games to be played on the machine that have not hitherto been possible.

The invention consists in a poker machine of the kind consisting of plurality of reels arranged side by side each reel having on its circumference a plurality of symbols having one symbol at each of a plurality of positions around the circumference of the reel, a viewing window through which

one or more lines of symbols, one symbol on each line being from each reel, are visible, means to rotate and stop the reels in a random manner, microprocessor means controlling the last mentioned means said microprocessor means being 5 programmed to operate payout means to pay a predetermined prize from the machine on the appearance of a predetermined combination of symbols in said window characterised in that on one or more of the reels of the machine at one or more positions two of the said symbols are depicted side by side 10 in the same position on the circumference of the reel or reels.

In order that the nature of the invention may be better understood preferred forms of the invention are hereinafter described by way of example with reference to the 15 accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a view of a viewing window of a machine depicting an arrangement of symbols as might appear in connection with a first game;

Fig. 2 is a logic diagram for the game described in 20 connection with Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a figure similar to Fig. 1 in relation to a second game;

Fig. 4 is a logic diagram for the second game described in relation to Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a figure similar to Fig. 1 illustrating a 25 third game;

Fig. 6 is a figure similar to Fig. 1 illustrating a fourth game; and

Fig. 7 is a logic diagram in relation to the third and 30 fourth games described in connection with Figs. 5 and 6.

In Fig. 1 which illustrates the appearance of the viewing window of a five reel poker machine in which the symbols are those used in connection with playing cards, the symbol K for example standing for King and the symbol J for 35 Jack. In this particular example the other symbols not seen

would be A for Ace, Q for Queen and numbers such as 10 and 9 depicting card values. In the situation depicted in Fig. 1 the symbol K appears on reels 1, 2, 4 and 5 in different positions in the window. On the centre reel 3 appears a

5 double symbol JK which is made up of two of the normal symbols J and K arranged side by side. In this connection the term "side by side" is to be read broadly to cover any relationship of the two symbols, for example one above the other or diagonally opposed. The significant feature is that

10 the double symbol occupies a position occupied by a normal single symbol. On the centre reel in this particular arrangement there could be other double symbols, for example AJ and Q9, arranged at positions around the circumference of the reel. In this particular game, when a double symbol

15 occurs on the centre line with a no-win combination and symbols which match either of those of the double symbol occur at positions on other reels which, when moved one position clockwise or anti-clockwise would lie on the centre line or which actually lie on the centre line will be

20 regarded by the microprocessor as lying on the centre line and in the instance illustrated would give rise to a prize for five Kings. The manner in which this is achieved is set out in the logic table of Fig. 2.

In the second game illustrated in Fig. 3, as in Fig. 1

25 the blank positions on the reels are to be taken to be filled with any symbols which do not provide prize winning combinations. Under these circumstances the appearance of the double symbol at the centre position of the centre reel 3 is noted by the microprocessor which then respins the

30 remaining reels automatically and should a winning combination of either Jacks or Kings appear on the centre line a prize will be paid according to the prize schedule. The manner in which this is carried out is illustrated in the logic table of Fig. 4.

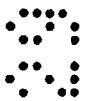
35 In the third game illustrated in Fig. 5 a double symbol

JK appears on the centre reel 3 below the centre line on which there are already three J symbols. Under these circumstances the double symbol is regarded as having been transferred to the centre line and a payout is made according 5 to the payout prescribed by the prize table for four Jacks.

The fourth game illustrated in Fig. 6 is applicable to what is known as a three coin three line game in which a player purchases from 1 to 3 lines. Under these circumstances the double symbol will be transferred to line 3 10 to provide an appropriate payout.

Fig. 7 is a logic table applicable to the third and fourth games described with reference to Figs. 5 and 6.

It should be appreciated that the four games described above are merely illustrations of the possibilities that 15 present themselves by the adoption of the basic concept of the invention namely the depiction of duplicated symbols.



THE CLAIM DEFINING THE INVENTION IS AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A poker machine of the kind consisting of plurality of reels arranged side by side each reel having on its circumference a plurality of symbols having one symbol at each of a plurality of positions around the circumference of the reel, a viewing window through which one or more lines of symbols, one symbol on each line being from each reel, are visible, means to rotate and stop the reels in a random manner, microprocessor means controlling the last mentioned means said microprocessor means being programmed to operate payout means to pay a predetermined prize from the machine on the appearance of a predetermined combination of symbols in said window characterised in that on one or more of the reels of the machine at one or more positions two of the said symbols are depicted side by side in the same position on the circumference of the reel or reels.

DATED this 25th day of June 1987

AINSWORTH NOMINEES PTY. LIMITED
Patent Attorneys for the Applicant:

F.B. RICE & CO.

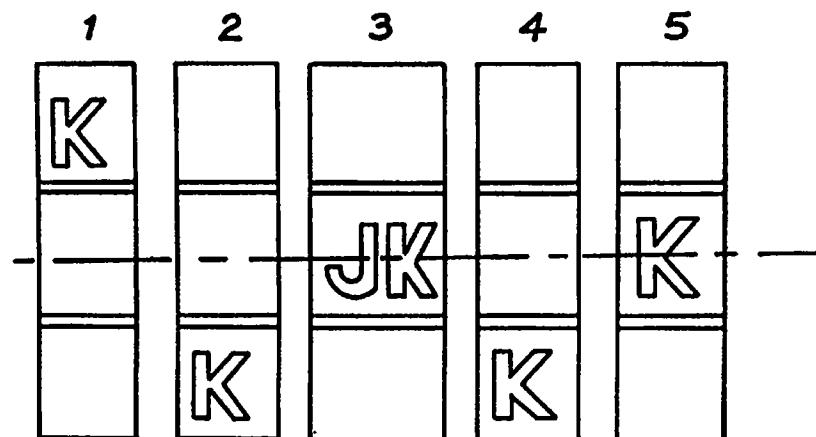


FIG. 1

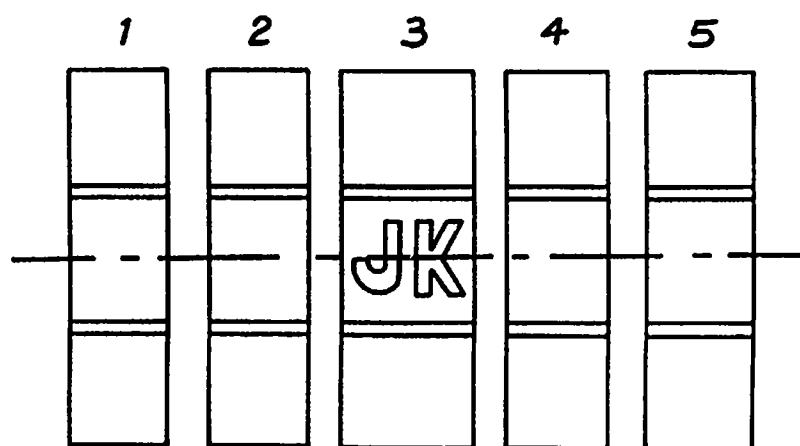


FIG. 3

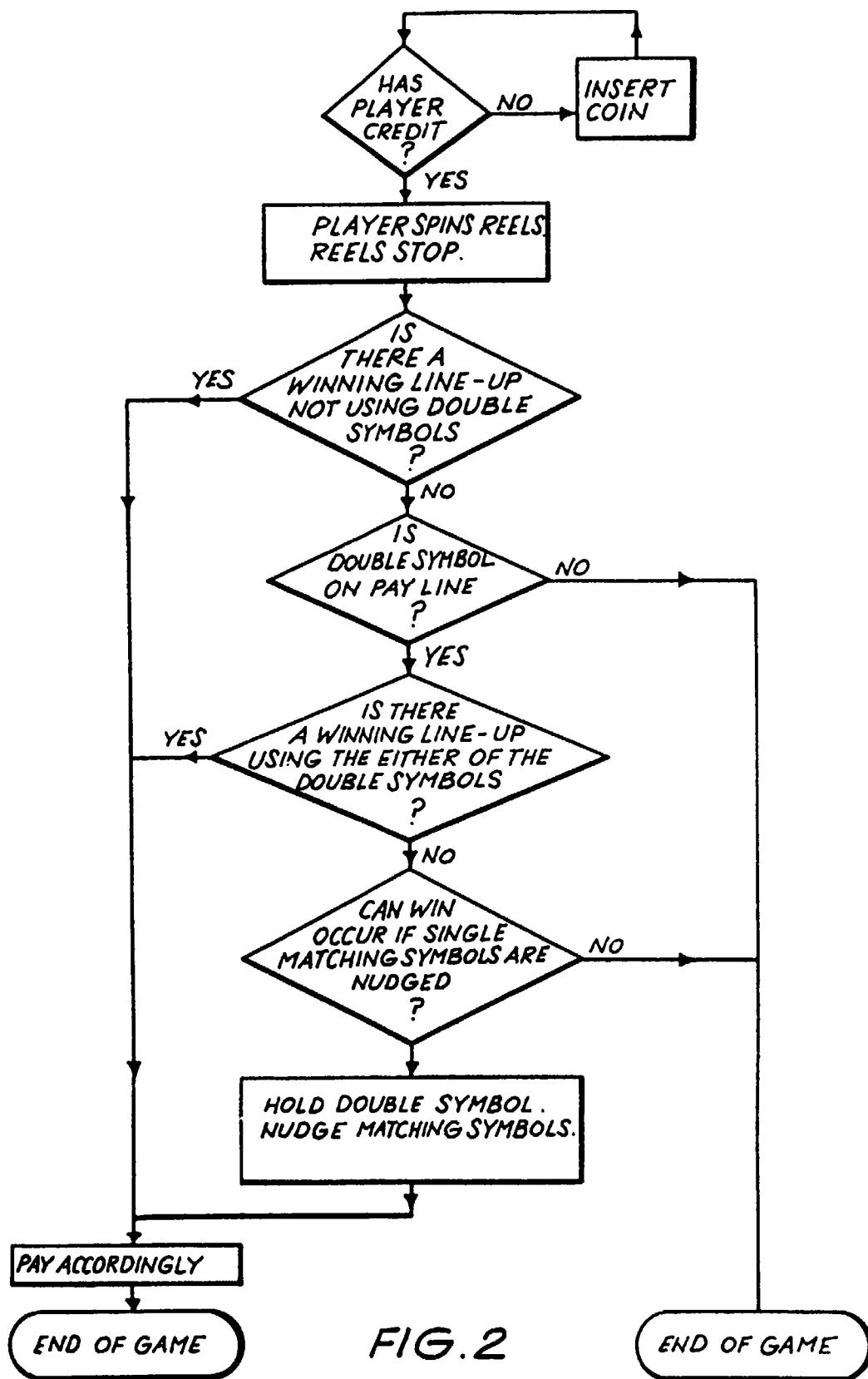


FIG. 2

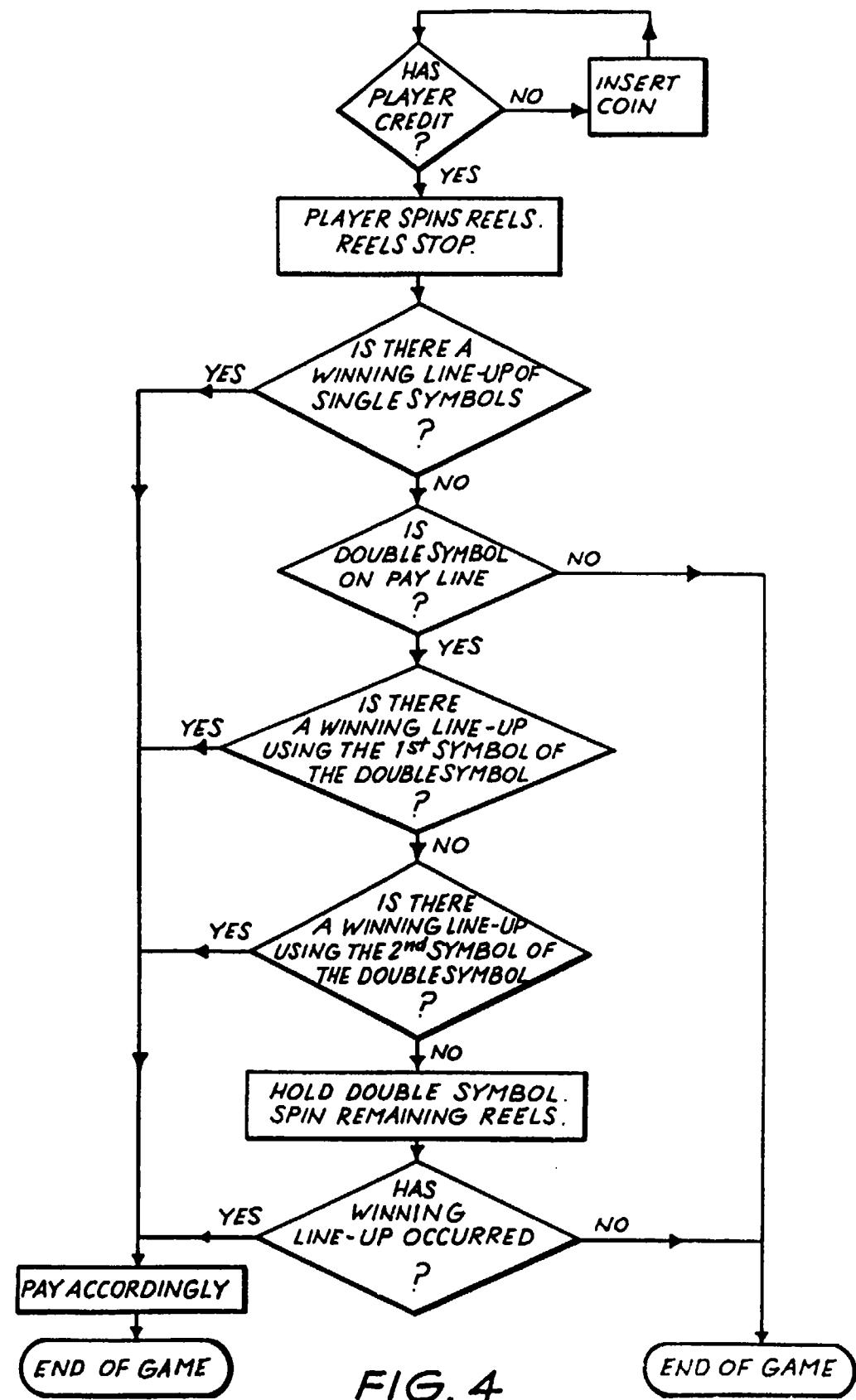


FIG. 4

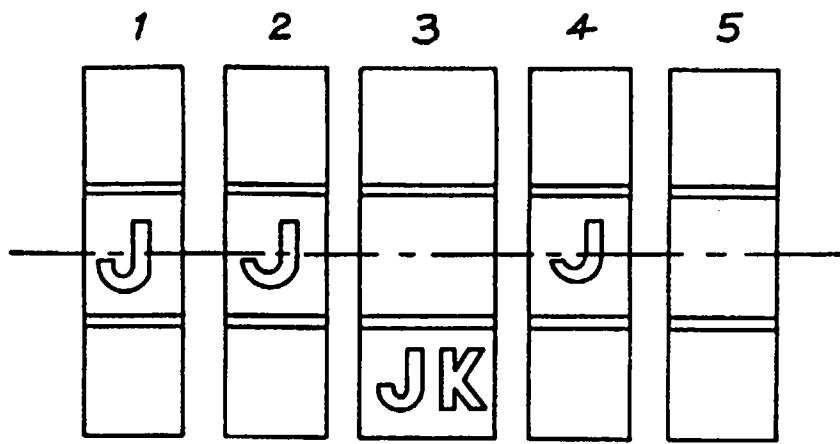


FIG. 5

1
2
3
4
5

6
7
8
9
10

11
12
13
14
15

16
17
18
19
20

21
22
23
24
25

26
27
28
29
30

31
32
33
34
35

36
37
38
39
40

41
42
43
44
45

46
47
48
49
50

51
52
53
54
55

56
57
58
59
60

61
62
63
64
65

66
67
68
69
70

71
72
73
74
75

76
77
78
79
80

81
82
83
84
85

86
87
88
89
90

91
92
93
94
95

96
97
98
99
100

101
102
103
104
105

106
107
108
109
110

111
112
113
114
115

116
117
118
119
119

120
121
122
123
124

125
126
127
128
129

130
131
132
133
134

135
136
137
138
139

140
141
142
143
144

145
146
147
148
149

150
151
152
153
154

155
156
157
158
159

160
161
162
163
164

165
166
167
168
169

170
171
172
173
174

175
176
177
178
179

180
181
182
183
184

185
186
187
188
189

190
191
192
193
194

195
196
197
198
199

200
201
202
203
204

205
206
207
208
209

210
211
212
213
214

215
216
217
218
219

220
221
222
223
224

225
226
227
228
229

230
231
232
233
234

235
236
237
238
239

240
241
242
243
244

245
246
247
248
249

250
251
252
253
254

255
256
257
258
259

260
261
262
263
264

265
266
267
268
269

270
271
272
273
274

275
276
277
278
279

280
281
282
283
284

285
286
287
288
289

290
291
292
293
294

295
296
297
298
299

300
301
302
303
304

305
306
307
308
309

310
311
312
313
314

315
316
317
318
319

320
321
322
323
324

325
326
327
328
329

330
331
332
333
334

335
336
337
338
339

340
341
342
343
344

345
346
347
348
349

350
351
352
353
354

355
356
357
358
359

360
361
362
363
364

365
366
367
368
369

370
371
372
373
374

375
376
377
378
379

380
381
382
383
384

385
386
387
388
389

390
391
392
393
394

395
396
397
398
399

400
401
402
403
404

405
406
407
408
409

410
411
412
413
414

415
416
417
418
419

420
421
422
423
424

425
426
427
428
429

430
431
432
433
434

435
436
437
438
439

440
441
442
443
444

445
446
447
448
449

450
451
452
453
454

455
456
457
458
459

460
461
462
463
464

465
466
467
468
469

470
471
472
473
474

475
476
477
478
479

480
481
482
483
484

485
486
487
488
489

490
491
492
493
494

495
496
497
498
499

500
501
502
503
504

505
506
507
508
509

510
511
512
513
514

515
516
517
518
519

520
521
522
523
524

525
526
527
528
529

530
531
532
533
534

535
536
537
538
539

540
541
542
543
544

545
546
547
548
549

550
551
552
553
554

555
556
557
558
559

560
561
562
563
564

565
566
567
568
569

570
571
572
573
574

575
576
577
578
579

580
581
582
583
584

585
586
587
588
589

590
591
592
593
594

595
596
597
598
599

600
601
602
603
604

605
606
607
608
609

610
611
612
613
614

615
616
617
618
619

620
621
622
623
624

625
626
627
628
629

630
631
632
633
634

635
636
637
638
639

640
641
642
643
644

645
646
647
648
649

650
651
652
653
654

655
656
657
658
659

660
661
662
663
664

665
666
667
668
669

670
671
672
673
674

675
676
677
678
679

680
681
682
683
684

685
686
687
688
689

690
691
692
693
694

695
696
697
698
699

700
701
702
703
704

705
706
707
708
709

710
711
712
713
714

715
716
717
718
719

720
721
722
723
724

725
726
727
728
729

730
731
732
733
734

735
736
737
738
739

740
741
742
743
744

745
746
747
748
749

750
751
752
753
754

755
756
757
758
759

760
761
762
763
764

765
766
767
768
769

770
771
772
773
774

775
776
777
778
779

780
781
782
783
784

785
786
787
788
789

790
791
792
793
794

795
796
797
798
799

800
801
802
803
804

805
806
807
808
809

810
811
812
813
814

815
816
817
818
819

820
821
822
823
824

825
826
827
828
829

830
831
832
833
834

835
836
837
838
839

840
841
842
843
844

845
846
847
848
849

850
851
852
853
854

855
856
857
858
859

860
861
862
863
864

865
866
867
868
869

870
871
872
873
874

875
876
877
878
879

880
881
882
883
884

885
886
887
888
889

890
891
892
893
894

895
896
897
898
899

900
901
902
903
904

905
906
907
908
909

910
911
912
913
914

915
916
917
918
919

920
921
922
923
924

925
926
927
928
929

930
931
932
933
934

935
936
937
938
939

940
941
942
943
944

945
946
947
948
949

950
951
952
953
954

955
956
957
958
959

960
961
962
963
964

965
966
967
968
969

970
971
972
973
974

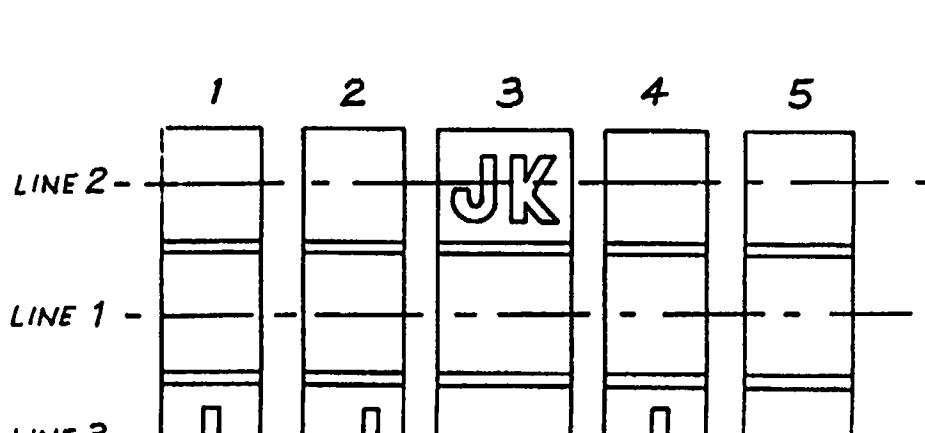
975
976
977
978
979

980
981
982
983
984

985
986
987
988
989

990
991
992
993
994

995
996
997
998
999



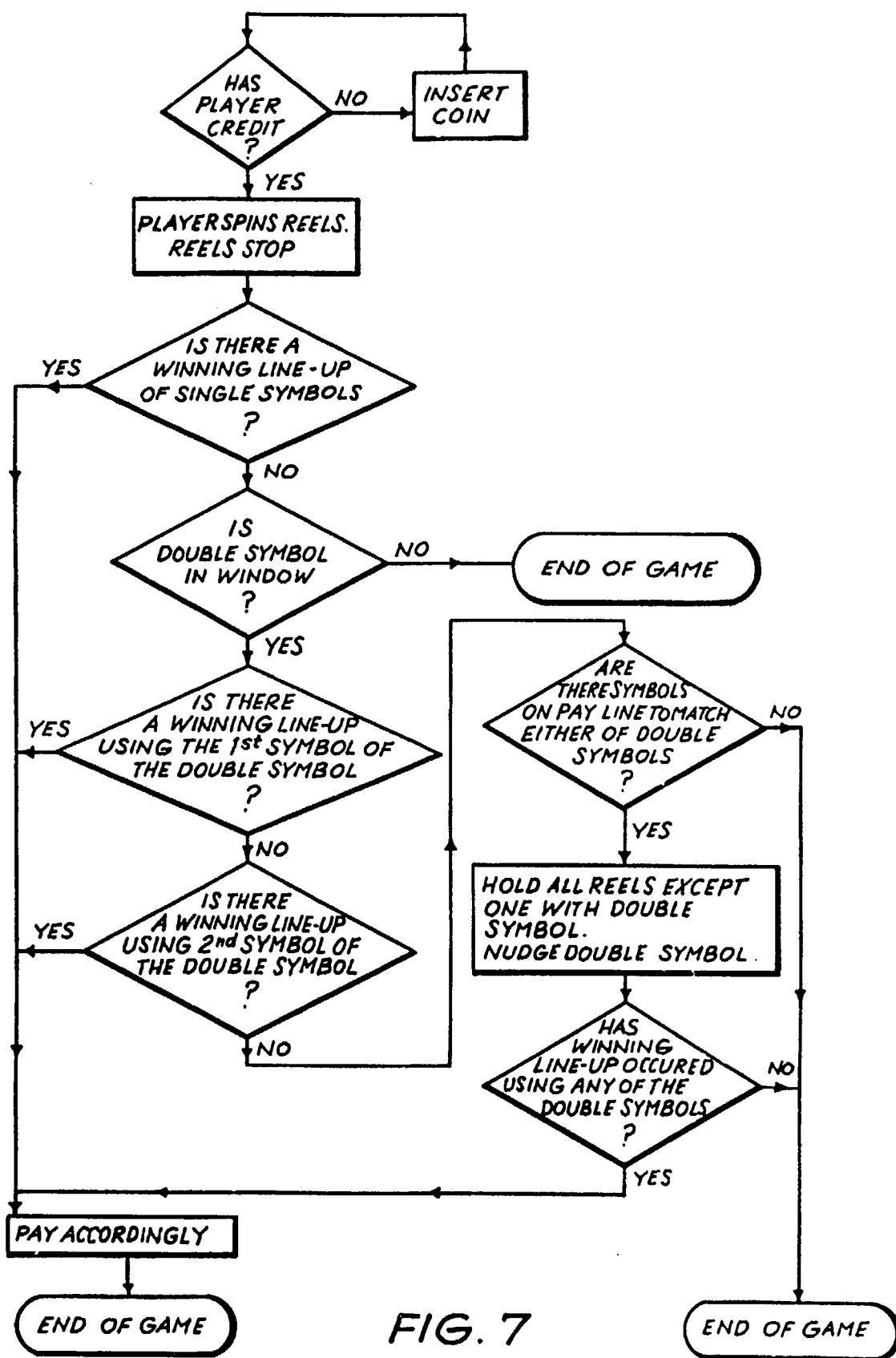


FIG. 7